



THE JEWISH GAILY

FORWARD

JULY 1981

שער זהב

SIVAN/TAMMUZ 5741

A HOME OF OUR OWN!!

We're off and running! Our campaign to acquire a home for our wandering congregation is underway. Ideas and support are flowing in, and the various committees are busy. Here is some information and an update:

- 1) The campaign work is divided up among six committees:

- Building Committee (with sub-committees handling site selection and building development)
- Research Committee
- Public Relations Committee
- Dedications Committee
- Evaluation Committee
- Special Events Committee

There is still lots to do; if you want to pitch in, call 621-2871 today!

- 2) The Building Committee has instructed its Site Selection Sub-Committee (Dave Moskowitz, Helen Howard, Stewart Cain) to concentrate on a building that would cost less than \$500,000 -- either new construction or renovation. The sub-committee is also getting clear figures on the purchase/restoration of the historic synagogue on Bush Street near Laguna. (Did you know that it once had a gay rabbi!)

- 3) On Sunday, June 21st, about 25 members of Sha'ar Zahav set out on a bus tour of three Bay Area synagogues selected by our building campaign maven (consultant in English), Hal Nappan. These new synagogues were Temple Israel in Alameda, Temple Beth Torah in Fremont and Temple

Beth David in Saratoga. Experienced building campaigners at each synagogue gave detailed presentations, and at Temple Beth Torah our brown-baggers were revived with refreshments and cookies. Evaluations were developed on each Temple and campaign method, and "the voice of experience" was given our strict attention. The group stopped at the Bush and Laguna Streets synagogue and was able to decipher the Hebrew, "Lovers of Peace..." on the old cornerstone. We understand that this outing was so educational and fun that the group, en masse, is offering to tour synagogues all over America!

- 4) The Research Committee is anxious to receive your return forms enclosed with their June 12th letter, asking for the names of your friends and family who would possibly be interested in supporting the campaign. Think! Think! THINK!
- 5) The Public Relations Committee is drumming up support for our campaign in the Jewish, gay and lesbian Bay Area communities. Any ideas, call chair Cathy Nelson at 621-0628 (evenings).
- 6) Our tireless building campaign maven, Hal Nappan, says we are in great shape and we hope to complete the campaign "as soon as possible." He is amazed at the number of people willing to give their time and money for this effort. Stick around, Hal, you ain't seen nothing yet!

(Continued on page 5)

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

I am most pleased, and not a little humbled, by the opportunity given to me at the Congregation's semi-annual meeting and election to lead an excellent group of officers and Va'ad members in the new year. We begin our tasks of turning dreams into realities at a most auspicious time. The Congregation's building campaign is enabling a significant number of members to participate in the directing, planning and executing of the programs of this once in a lifetime opportunity. It is reassuring to begin the effort of acquiring a home with the widespread support which is being demonstrated within our own membership and in the lesbian/gay and Jewish communities as well.

The significant organizational changes under the new by laws will challenge us to set goals and objectives for all our committees; to develop programs and services which do not revolve solely around religious services; to formulate procedures for more effective administration of all congregational functions; to establish a calendar of events eliminating conflicts with other happenings in the gay/lesbian and Jewish communities; and to nuture new chavuot enabling members to broaden their Jewish life experiences in the home as well as in the synagogue.

I believe our Congregation has a unique role in its outreach to the lesbian and gay community. We can recreate the traditional foundation and resource for life with all of its joys and sorrows which the synagogue was once to our people. This central focus is of a community with social, religious, cultural, support and educational ties to its members and most importantly, to strangers.

Each of us understands what it means to be a stranger in our own land.

Each of us can help a stranger become a neighbor.

Each of us represents a human being created by G-d with the capacity to love and help one another.

- Paul J. Cohen

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The semi-annual Congregational meeting held in late May has provided us with the following officers for 1981-82: Paul Cohen, president; Cheryl Orvis, vice president; Irene O'Gus, treasurer; and Aaron Cooper, recorder. Elected to the Va'ad were Dr. Shelley Abts Fernandez, Michael F., Steven Fritsch Rudser, Ron Lezell, Harry Lutrin, Linda M., Mike Rankin, Allan Schrager and Robert T.

Members also voted to seek affiliation with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations. Since the meeting, the application has been filed and Sha'ar Zahav expects to be accepted into membership in time to send delegates to the UAHC convention in December.

A resolution asking the Va'ad to develop a schedule of recommended annual dues, based on income levels, was also passed.

The Building Committee reported that the campaign to raise funds for a home of our own is under way. (More information on the campaign is contained in the article on page 1.)

WILL WE SEE BASEBALL?

At press time, the baseball player's strike is still on. We're hoping that the dispute is settled soon, for a number of important reasons, including our First Annual Night with the A's!!

Thursday, July 16 is the date and the Oakland Coliseum is the place. The \$10 ticket includes dinner at 6:30 p.m. in the Hospitality Room and, later, a box seat from which you can watch those East Bay champions beat the New York Yankees. (Remember: Think positive!) Reservations must be made by July 3.

Just in case the strike continues, check with the Congregation's office, 621-2871, for a recorded announcement with the latest information.

FROM WHERE I STAND

As this issue of the Forward goes to press, Steven and I will be visiting many of the famous sites of Egypt, after attending the Central Conference of American Rabbis convention in Jerusalem. Our travels will take us to Cairo, Aswan, Abu Simbel, Luxor, Elephantine Island, the Valley of the Kings and Queens (including the tomb of King Tutankamon) and the pyramids of Giza, as well as other places of specific Jewish interest. It is my hope that, in the near future, we will be able to organize a tour of Israel and Egypt for members of our congregation as well.

In the meantime, we regret not being able to be with our brothers and sisters in Philadelphia as they attend the Sixth International Conference of Lesbian and Gay Jews. This annual "gathering of the clan" has always been not only educational and socially rewarding, but, for many, it has been positively inspirational as well. Our thoughts and prayers are with you as you convene with our extended family from all over the world.

And speaking of family, let me once again say how proud and grateful I am to be part of this congregation, or family. "Why?" you may ask. "Because," I respond, "as we observe our fourth anniversary this month, we do so having taken some impressive steps in our own growth recently." We've made formal application to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations for membership

in that national body, and, baring unforeseen difficulties, we should be accepted as a matter of course. We've become the first synagogue with a specific outreach to the gay and lesbian community to hire a rabbi full-time (for which I am exceedingly grateful), and an openly gay rabbi at that. And we have launched a campaign to enable us to purchase our own home, which means that we believe we have reached the point in our growth where we think we can handle the responsibilities which attend the owning of one's own home. Our membership is growing weekly, and our ability to serve the greater community is growing proportionally.

I am grateful to our outgoing Va'ad and officers for the tremendous work they did during the last year, and I look forward with great excitement to seeing our newly elected board members and officers move into their new positions of responsibility in the weeks ahead.

As we move into our fifth year as a congregation, may our family continue to grow in numbers, in strength, and in commitment. May we all share in the realization of the dream of seeing ourselves in our own home, better serving our brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, daughters and sons, an inspiration to all whose lives we touch.

- Allen B. Bennett

SEEN THE BULLETIN LATELY?

Those of us who subscribe to the San Francisco Jewish Bulletin may have noticed some familiar names and faces in recent editions.

In the June 12 issue, Irene Oguis was pictured handing a check for \$150 to Carol Bloomstein, librarian at the Jewish Community Library. The contribution came from excess funds from the Fifth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews, sponsored by Sha'ar Zahav last Fall, and will be used to add to the Library's collection of books on religion and homosexuality.

Reading newspaper mastheads is probably not anyone's favorite passtime, but you'll

notice that Rabbi Allen B. Bennett is now listed among the members of the Board of Directors of the Bulletin. He has been active in the Northern California Division of the American Jewish Congress for some time, and was recently appointed by AJCongress president Stewart H. Foreman to represent the organization on that Board.

We can all be very happy and proud that our efforts to be seen as part of the Bay Area Jewish community are productive. And why shouldn't they be? We are a vital resource in this community. More and more people are realizing that fact.

JULY

סינון תינד

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1 כט	2 Rosh Hodesh Tammuz	3 Herzl Day 4 Independence Day
Bialik Day 5 גג	6 ד	7 ה	8 י	9 נNewsletter deadline!	10 Shabbat Services, Daniel Koenigsberg	11 ט
Valed Meeting 12 י	13 יא	14 יב	15 יג	16 <i>Bosebali!</i> (we hope) יד	17 Shabbat Services, Michael Freedland	18 טז
Fast 19 יז Seventeenth of Tammuz	20 יח	21 יט	22 כ	23 כא	24 Shabbat Services, Rabbi Bennett	25 כג
26 כד	27 כה	28 כו	29 כז	30 כח	31 Shabbat Services, Rabbi Bennett	



SOVIET JEWS FACING NEW REPRESSIONS

Extracts from OUTCRY!, the newsletter of the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry, June 1981.

There can no longer be any doubt about it: We are witnessing the most prolonged and severe Soviet crackdown on Jewish activities that has occurred in some time . . . With renewed vigor, Soviet authorities have, in recent months, moved against teachers of Hebrew and Judaica, and against collective expressions of Jewish culture and identity . . . The rate

of Jewish emigration from the USSR continued its fall, as 1155 Jews were allowed to leave the country in April. That is less than half the number of Jews who left in April 1980, and it is slightly more than 25% of the number who left in April 1979.

A number of members of Sha'ar Zahav have been active with the Council. If you are interested in helping with their vital work, call BACSJ at 585-1400, or write to 106 Baden Street, San Francisco, California 94131.

ONEG, LTD.

I want to thank everyone on my committee for re-electing me chair of Oneg for another wonderful year, and to thank members of the committee, too, for their help. I look forward to working together for a great year.

Our committee would appreciate suggestions on ways of creating greater interest in supporting Onegs. Please contact us with any ideas you may have. Shalom.

- David Ben Jacob

JUNE ONEGS

June 5 By Sam Thal and Mike Rankin
June 7 Synagogue, prepared by L. Brill and Company
June 12 By the Congregation
June 19 By Danny Kent, in honor of his family and of gay freedom
June 26 By Shelley Spiro, in honor of her mother's birthday

A SPECIAL ONEG

Allan Schrager reports that our Oneg on July 10 will honor a very special person: David Ben Jacob. David has chaired the Oneg committee for over a year now, working very hard with the members of his committee to see to it that we enjoy our Friday evening celebrations, among other special occasions.

Let's all bring very special -- maybe even home-made! -- goodies that evening, and show David how very much we appreciate his efforts by letting him rest from his labors.

SIXTH INTERNAT'L CONFERENCE

We take this opportunity to greet our sisters and brothers meeting July 2-5 at the Sixth International Conference of Gay and Lesbian Jews in Philadelphia. To those of you, from all over the world, who may happen to pick up a copy of the Forward at the Conference, we send our warmest regards and our every good wish for a meaningful, successful Conference.

And for those of us unable to attend, be sure to check August's Forward for a complete report from our delegates Rob and Pete.

HOME... (from page I)

7) So there it is for now. If you want to lend a hand if you have a good idea, now is the time to act. Walter Leiss, our shining chair of the Building Campaign, wants to hear from you at 989-8350.

- Mark Feldman

COMMITTEE PARTICIPATION

"Now is the time for all good members to come to the aid of their synagogue."

That sentence differs somewhat from the original version, but the message remains clear: Sha'ar Zahav committees are welcoming the participation of interested members. If you have considered working with a particular committee, this is the best time to become involved, while the various groups are planning for the coming year. Get in on the ground floor! Send in the coupon below, or call Michael at 436-6692 or Linda at 763-2873, to let them know how you'd like to become more involved.

Mail to: Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
P. O. Box 5640
San Francisco, California 94101

I'd like to work with the

Social Program Social Action Oneg

Finance Education Newsletter

Ritual Membership Bikkur Cholim

Building committee.

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ ZIP _____

Please call me at _____
(phone)

on _____ at _____
(day) (time of day)

Be discrete. This is my work home number and I am not "out" there.

NEW SCHOOL NAMED FOR WALLENBERG

In June's Forward, you read about Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who saved the lives of 100,000 Hungarians, mostly Jews, in the final days of World War II and who is believed to be still alive in prison in the Soviet Union.

The Board of Education of the City and County of San Francisco voted June 9 to name the new high school, scheduled to open this Fall, in honor of Wallenberg. This marks the first such public recognition in this country of Wallenberg's humanitarian, and heroic, efforts. It was at the behest of the U. S. War Refugee Board that Wallenberg went to Hungary in 1944. He was arrested by the Soviet army that occupied Budapest in early 1945. The Soviet Union has claimed he died in 1947, but a reliable emigre' witness reports meeting him in a Soviet prison last year. An international campaign to free him involves many individuals and organizations throughout the world.

The American Jewish Congress, which initiated and coordinated the efforts to name the school, has announced plans to establish a museum in the school library to exhibit photographs, documents, artifacts and other memorabilia of Wallenberg's work. An oral history project will also gather the recollections of survivors. Persons interested in contributing materials to the museum or participating in the oral history project should call AJCongress at 391-6590.

RITUAL CALENDAR

July 3	<u>Chukat</u> : Numbers 19:1 - 22:1 Judges 11:1 - 33 Daniel Kohanski
July 10	<u>Balak</u> : Numbers 22:2 - 25:9 Micah 5:6 - 6:8 Daniel Kohanski
July 17	<u>Pinchas</u> : Numbers 25:10 - 30:1 I Kings 18:46 - 19:21 Michael Freedland
July 24	<u>Matot</u> : Numbers 30:2 - 32:42 Jeremiah 1:1 - 2:3 Rabbi Allen B. Bennett
July 31	<u>Masee</u> : Numbers 33:1 - 36:13 Jeremiah 2:4 - 28; 3:4 Isaiah 66:1; 24 Rabbi Allen B. Bennett Rosh Chodesh Av

YAHRZEITS

Jay Cohn, brother of Herb Cohn Sam Holzman, father of Marcy Holzman	29 Sivan
Allan Zimmerman, father of Mike Zimmerman	July 4
Nelley Meyer, mother of Nancy Meyer	July 15
Joseph Weinstein, father of Ernie Weinstein	July 16
Adele Kuluk, mother of Ida Kuluk	July 18
A. Martin Lipschutz, father of Marc Lipschutz	July 24
	July 25

DONATIONS

Krag Jacobson
Walter Leiss
Mark Leno
Charles McClanahan
Cynthia Schorr

BIRTHDAYS

John Horstman	July 5
Tad Dunlap	July 18
Jack Mann	July 23
Nancy Meyer	July 23
David Levine	July 28
Cheryl Orvis	July 28
Frank Martinez	July 30

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

If you're moving,
please allow six
weeks for
processing time.

Attach current address label here.

NEW ADDRESS:

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Mail to:
Sha'ar Zahav
P.O. Box 5640
S.F. CA 94101